

STAFF NEWS

USD #376
STERLING

NOVEMBER 1, 2009
DISTRICT OFFICE



Thanksgiving

PROUD RECOGNITION

The Kansas State Department of Education recently released its list of schools and classes to achieve the Standard of Excel-

lence. This is a calculation that varies depending on the test and grade level. It is a way to identify groups that have achieved a recognized high standard of academic performance.

For the third year our school system has reason to be proud. As I shared at the most recent board meeting, to have accomplished this for any building is notable, but for every building in our district to have been recognized for at least one building standard of excellence is remarkable!

I join with each board member in congratulating faculty members, administrators, and students for a job well done.

Here are our results of building awards for Standard of Excellence:

Academy: Reading, Science, Writing

JRHI: Reading and Math

SGS: Reading and Math

SHS: Reading

PDC INFO

Dan Weiner, our district Professional Development Chair reminds us that some important information concerning the renewal process for all teachers includes:

1. There is a transition period for teachers who still hold a "certificate."
 - Certificates are renewable under the old regulations.
 - All applicants now receive a "license."
 - Licenses are renewable under new regulations.
2. While certificates are renewable 18 months prior to expiration, licenses are only renewable six months prior to expiration. They also must earn professional development credit within the five year time period of the license. *If you have other questions, please contact Dan.* ✕

Teaching is the greatest act of optimism.

✕ Colleen Wilcox, American School Administrator

Inside this issue:

Professional Leave and 2
Staff Development
Activities

Board Policy 2

BOE Mtg.
Nov. 9
7:00 P.M.

Special points of interest:

- Nov. 7 ➤ District KMEA / Auditions
- Nov. 10 ➤ JRHI Sch. Bowl (Home)
- Nov. 11 ➤ Veteran's Day Assy.
- Nov. 20 ➤ FCCLA Powder Puff FB
- Nov. 25-27 ➤ Thanksgiving Vacation—NO SCHOOL

PROFESSIONAL LEAVE AND STAFF DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

At this point in the year, all certified staff should have completed a Professional Development Plan (PDP). Completion of Page 1 of the PDP served as enrollment and set goals for this year. Additionally, certified staff needs to inform our PDC chair, Dan Weiner, of committee assignments and other training being planned for this year.

Staff development (for groups) and professional development (for individuals) has been refocused. PD now must focus around district, building or individual goals. KSDE has emphasized that PD must be an integral part of a school's efforts to improve student performance. The USD 376 Professional Development Council (PDC) supports these changes.

Changes in KSDE regulations have lead to changes in our USD 376 Professional Development Plan. First, and most importantly, PD activities are now the primary means for renewing a teaching certificate or license. With few exceptions, all PD activities including college hours must be listed on a Professional Development Transcript. The PD transcript must accompany the application for renewal. Second, PD opportunities have been expanded. While teachers may continue to attend workshops, they may also earn PD points for independent study, independent projects, peer coaching, study groups, active research and other activities that improve professional skills.

Please note: An approved PDP does not negate the need to turn in a Professional Leave Request. These requests must be submitted at least **one week** in advance of the leave date(s). PDP's do not automatically grant approval for attendance at a conference or workshop.

We are in favor of professional development activities that follow a goal for some type of improvement and will support staff in those endeavors. We are less enthusiastic about one day "hit or miss" activities that have no particular focus on a district or building improvement goal. As our requests multiply, and as we need to screen these requests more carefully, we will be giving priority to those activities following some type of building or district goal.

I would suggest that if you have not already submitted leave requests for your PDP needs for the 2009-10 school year that you do so as soon as possible. This has been helpful to the building principals and our office as we plan ahead.

Questions often arise with any new system. If you have questions, please contact Dan Weiner or your principal. ✖

BOARD POLICY: GAOC & JCDAА ➤ TOBACCO-FREE

☞ REMINDER

The use of tobacco products in any form is prohibited in or on all USD 376 property and any rented or leased facilities. The tobacco-free campus policy includes both indoor and outdoor school-sponsored events.



Reference Policy JCDAА for further details and restrictions.

Fall Play
November 12–14
7:30 P.M.



